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Letter dated 13 September 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 7 September 2004, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-55006 (E) 141004

Annex

Letter dated 7 September 2004 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on SFOR operations for July 2004. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap de **Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 July 2004.

2. As at 30 July 2004, the total strength of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) was 8,587, including 409 troops from non-NATO countries. In addition, there were six SFOR personnel posted in Croatia.

3. There was no change to the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

4. Following the Istanbul summit decisions, the transition from SFOR to a European Union force is progressing smoothly.

Security

5. During the reporting period, Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable, with no serious incidents to report.

6. There were no significant acts of violence directed against SFOR personnel during the reporting period.

7. SFOR remained engaged with weapons collection, destruction and framework operations.

8. The results of weapons turned in or collected during the reporting period and within the framework of Operation Harvest are as follows: small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers): 999; ammunition less than 20 mm: 290,583 rounds; ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm: 192 rounds; ammunition more than 76 mm: 11 rounds; hand grenades: 3,293; mines: 185; explosives: 1,175.9 kg; other items (mortars and mortar rounds, rifle grenades, handmade ordnance, rockets etc): 5,352.

9. In order to support the reduction of unserviceable and obsolete Entity Armed Forces ammunition and reduce ammunition quantities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, SFOR has continued to conduct Operation Armadillo II. As at 31 July 2004, the total amount of Republika Srpska Army ammunition destroyed was 2,161 tons.

10. On 3 July 2004, soldiers from Multinational Task Force North discovered three SA-7B missiles near Kuti, north-east of Sarajevo. All three missiles were serviceable with functioning trigger mechanisms.

11. On 11 July 2004, near Vitez, 75 kg of home-made explosives were found stored under a plastic sheet. The items were moved to the Netherlands base in Bugojno for destruction.

12. On 23 July 2004, Rajko Banduka, a former member of General Ratko Mladic's staff, was detained in his apartment in Bijeljina. Banduka was transported to the Republika Srpska Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police in Bijeljina on 25 July 2004 and placed in their custody. On 31 July 2004, SFOR apprehended Mile Pejcic, a wartime bodyguard to Radovan Karadzic, in Brčko, on suspicion that he had been engaged in anti-Dayton activities. Following this, a document exploitation team from SFOR conducted an inspection in the Republika Srpska Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police station in Bijeljina.

13. On 23 July 2004, the reconstructed Stari Most, or Old Bridge, was rededicated in a gala ceremony in Mostar. The rededication passed without incident.

Compliance by the parties

14. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces have carried out normal training activities, in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

15. There were a total of 155 training and operation activities (56 Republika Srpska Army and 99 Federation Army) and 756 movements (80 Republika Srpska Army and 76 Federation Army) conducted during the reporting period.

16. On 10 July 2004, a Federation Army mine-clearing team activated a mine in a known minefield near Travnik. The four-man demining crew was walking to the minefield when the accident occurred. One man was instantly killed, one died soon after, and the other two were very seriously injured. Liaison Officer Travnik provided post-incident support and coordinated the medical evacuation of casualties to Sarajevo.

17. A total of 33 inspections of weapons storage sites and ammunition storage sites (11 Republika Srpska Army and 22 Federation Army) were conducted during the reporting period. Four such sites were closed in July 2004.